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FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 5026 R 270831 JUL 76 ACTION DA WASHDC
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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MASS, TECH, PO

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ELECTRICITY GENERATORS FOR PORTUGAL

EF: (A) LISBON 4567 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL) (DTG 081003Z
JUL 76); (B) DA MSG DAEN-FEP DTG 141449Z APRIL
1976 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PORTUGAL FACES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY SITUATION. EMBASSY SEEKS TO ASSIST PORTUGUESE
IN OBTAINING SUPPLEMENTARY GENERATORS. HEREIN ARE
POSED TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE USE OF
U.S. ARMY BARGE OR OTHER GENERATING EQUIPMENT.
EMBASSY ALSO URGES FULL INVESTIGATION OF ADDITIONAL
POSSIBLE PORTABLE POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTELS REPORTED PORTUGAL'S DIFFICULT ELECTRICAL
SUPPLY SITUATION. PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO BECOME
ACUTE IN LATE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BECAUSE:
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-- EVEN IF RAINS BEGIN IN OCTOBER AS EVERYONE

HOPES, RESERVOIRS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY REPLENISHED TO PERMIT THEIR UNRESTRICTED USE. IN ADDITION, GIVEN JUSTIFIABLE PORTUGUESE FEARS THAT 1976-77 RAINFALL WILL BE BELOW NORMAL FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, GOP WILL LIKELY SEEK TO CONSERVE WATER SUPPLIES THROUGH REDUCED HYDROELECTRIC OUTPUT; -- CONTRACT WITH EDF OF FRANCE PROVIDING 150 MW POWER SUPPLY WILL EXPIRE AT END OF SEPTEMBER. CHANCES FOR RENEWAL REPORTEDLY ARE POOR; AND -- EQUIPMENT AT THERMAL POWER PLANTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO INCREASING BREAKDOWNS DUE TO HEAVY USE AND REDUCED MAINTENANCE.

2. IN EFFORT TO ASSIST PORTUGUESE, MAAG AND DAO INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING SUPPLEMENTARY GENERATING EQUIPMENT ON TEMPORARY BASIS. MAAG WAS INFORMED THAT U.S. ARMY HAS SOME POWER GENERATOR BARGES AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SMALLER LAND-BASED PLANTS. ARMY (SEE REFTTEL B) CONFIRMED AVAILABILITY ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 1, 1976, OF BARGE ANDREW J. WEBER, CURRENTLY STATIONED IN PANAMA CANAL ZONE. WEBER REPORTEDLY HAS COMBINED DIESEL/GAS TURBINE GENERATING CAPACITY OF 21.6 MW, WITH OUTPUT AT 13.8 KV, 60 HZ.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED AVAILABILITY OF BARGE JULY 22 WITH ELECTRICIDADE DE PORTUGAL (EDP) OFFICIAL GODINHO. GODINHO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR U.S. INITIATIVE AND WAS EAGER TO OBTAIN BARGE (AND/OR OTHER POWER SOURCES) IF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED. IN FACT, COMPANHIA PORTUGUESE DE ELETRICIDADE (CPE)--NOW EDP--HAD MADE EFFORT IN APRIL TO OBTAIN TEMPORARY GENERATORS. GODINHO SAID THAT CPE HAD IMPRESSION NO U.S. EQUIPMENT WAS AVAILABLE, BUT HAD HEARD THAT SOVIET UNION POSSESSED PORTABLE GENERATORS IN NORTHERN SIBERIA. CPE REPRESENTATIVES TALKED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND PRESENTED WRITTEN REQUEST IN MID-APRIL, BUT SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED. GODINHO SAID THAT IF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVED, U.S. INITIATIVE WOULD PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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STRONG CONTRAST WITH SOVIET FAILURE TO RESPOND.

4. PORTUGUESE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM IS 220V/50 HZ, WITH 11 KV TRANSMISSION NET. EDP OFFICIALS POSED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING AVAILABLE U.S. ARMY EQUIPMENT, REQUIRING ANSWER FROM U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (DAEN-FEP): -- IS IT POSSIBLE TO REDUCE GENERATOR SPEED TO

PROVIDE 50 HZ? WHAT WOULD BE RESULTANT POWER OUTPUT, I.E. EXTENT OF POWER LOSS? WHAT PROVISION WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE FOR AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT, E.G. REPLACE PUMPS?

--IF OUTPUT OF GENERATOR IS REDUCED TO OBTAIN 50 HZ, COULD VOLTAGE OUTPUT BE SET AT 11 KV IN ORDER TO CONNECT WITH PORTUGUESE TRANSMISSION NET, WITHOUT NECESSITY FOR SUBSTATION?

-- IF SUBSTATION IS NECESSARY, COULD IT BE SET FOR 11 KV OUTPUT? WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF SUBSTATION?

-- IF GENERATOR SPEED CAN BE MODIFIED TO OBTAIN 50 HZ, COULD ONE OF ARMY'S LAND-BASED GENERATORS (ABOUT 150 KW CAPACITY) BE USED TO POWER AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT ON BARGE?

-- WHAT ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF LAND-BASED GENERATORS--NUMBER AVAILABLE, MEANS OF TRANSPORT, SOURCE (DIESEL, GAS, ETC.)?

-- WHAT TYPE OF FUEL CAN BE USED FOR GAS TURBINE GENERATOR ON BARGE (FUEL OIL, GAS, ETC.)?

5. EMBASSY URGES FULL INVESTIGATION OF OTHER POSSIBLE POWER SOURCES, INCLUDING MOTHBALLED OR ACTIVE DUTY U.S. NAVY VESSELS, E. G. REPAIR SHIP ON EXTENDED PORT VISIT. USDAO LISBON MSG DTG 021630Z JULY 76 (NOTAL) REQUESTED INFORMATION ON FEASIBILITY OF USING MOTHBALLED SHIPS. CNO MSG DTG 092247Z JULY 76 POINTED OUT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED. MANY OF THESE PROBLEMS EVOKE SAME QUESTIONS AS IN PARA 4 ABOVE.

6. EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT RESOLUTION OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND POSITIVE RESPONSE WOULD
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PROVIDE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PRODUCE PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS--ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON WITH LACK OF SOVIET RESPONSE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ACTION ADDRESSEES RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS FROM INFO ADDRESSES ON OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF POWER GENERATORS.

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